P.O. BOX 422
SOUTH MELBOURNE
VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA
3205

A LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

The Victorian Bing Crosby Society was formed in August of 1977 as a small regional group, principally with the aim of bringing Melbourne Crosby enthusiasts together, to view Bing's movies and to enjoy the occasional social function.

But within a few months of the society's founding, a strange and totally unexpected thing happened. People from other parts of Australia and overseas began requesting membership in the club. Of course we welcomed these new members, but felt that they deserved something more for their money than the pleasure of our company from afar.

And so was born 'The Crosby Voice'. Beginning as a two or three page newsletter of past and future functions plus details of record releases, articles, etc, The Crosby Voice evolved over the years into a full-sized A4 stapled magazine of 70 or more pages. Producing such a publication would have been impossible without the help and support of the club's hard-working committee whose aid in collating, stapling and mailing each issue I gratefully acknowledge.

This brings me to the point of this letter. Much as it distresses me to do so, I have no option but to cease publication of the Crosby Voice here and now. Quite simply, the magazine's success has unfortunately lead to its downfall.

You would have read in recent times of our battle with rising costs, a battle which we were getting under control. However, the one issue over which I have no control is my time. My workload has expanded to such a degree that it occupies nine to ten hours of my time, five and frequently six days a week. Currently, I do not even have time to answer the club mail which keeps piling up, let alone address the problem of putting together the magazine. I estimate that it takes seven full working days to put together a single issue, time that I regretfully can no longer afford.

At our most recent meeting on October 8th, I asked the members present whether they would want to see the Victorian Bing Crosby Society continue without The Crosby Voice and as the response was a unanimous YES, we will still operate. However, the wheel has turned full circle and the club will again be essentially a local group with a 1 - 2 page newsletter listing upcoming functions and possibly new record releases or other news of importance. Yes, the cassette library will continue.

What then of the interstate and overseas members who have followed us so loyally for so long? All I can say is that you are welcome to remain a part of this society if you wish and we will supply you with our film night souvenir sheets and simple newsletters.

I still have to resolve with Mark Scrimger and Keith Parkinson what will become of club funds in our overseas accounts, but I can safely say that anyone who has paid recently and would like their money refunded will of course receive it.

I do not yet know what the overseas membership fees will be, but an indication of interest, to retain membership will keep you on our books for the present.

Australian members will find a membership renewal form attached. As you will see, the fees have substantially been reduced and have been simplified to the same figure for all. Also, one membership will cover both husband and wife in future. If you have joined the society in recent times and would like your money refunded, you only have to ask.

All money received will go to cover the cost of printing our newsletters and souvenir sheets plus any postage or other small expenses involved. Club funds will also be used to subsidise the cost of our film nights when door money fails to cover our costs on the night.

I am very sorry to have to write this letter. You can be sure that my decision was not taken in haste but is the end result of several months deliberation. In the end, the realisation that it was impossible for me to continue taking your money without offering anything in return has made this the only possible decision.

I cannot mention here all the people who have contributed their time and efforts to the Crosby Voice over the years, but I must give thanks to some. In particular, our Honorary Vice-President, Vern Taylor, our USA reps (first Richard Pearson and then Mark Scrimger), our UK rep Keith Parkinson, our Treasurer Keith Dorman and our Executive Committee: Bill Bennett, Josie Conway, Sylvia Harding, Jim McManus, Bob Neate and Ted and Ada Paradissis.

And to you, our loyal member without whom the club would not exist, my very special thanks.

Bob Machliss

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OVERSEAS MEMBERS ONLY

To: (USA) Mark Scrimger, PO Box 172, Parma, Michigan 49269
(UK) Keith Parkinson, 'Meadowcroft', Houghtons Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 5LD
(ELSEWHERE) Bob Machliss, PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3205

I DO/DO NOT (PLEASE INDICATE) WISH TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY.

I WOULD LIKE/DO NOT WANT (PLEASE INDICATE) A REFUND OF MY MEMBERSHIP FEE.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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